

# Close Reading

Rule 1:

Use a pencil.

No pens  
allowed!

## Rule 2:

Listen and follow  
along as the teacher  
reads. Pencils down,  
eyes on the paper!

## Rule 3:

No electronics! No  
headphones! No music!  
(Exception: defining  
unknown words.)

Step 1:

Teacher reads aloud;  
students follow  
silently. (Repeated)

Step 2:

Underline unknown  
words and phrases and  
define. (Write down  
the definitions.)

## Step 3:

Circle POWERFUL words.

Unique, uncommon,  
descriptive words that add  
understanding or clarity.

(No more than 3 words  
circled together.)

## Step 4:

!!Exclamation points for  
important passages:  
evidence, support, clues,  
reveals, important  
information!!

## Step 5:

Write your thoughts down on the paper. Make connections. Ask questions. Speculate. Guess. Predict. Interpret. Summarize. Point out patterns. Make notes about what you circle or put an exclamation point next to.